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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2023

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Judge Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The invocation was led by Don Blackmore, Central Baptist Church.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Shane Speights, County Health Officer.

The roll was called, and all Justices were present.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Circuit Judge Chris Thyer addressed the Quorum Court to thank them for their commitment to serve the citizens of Craighead County, for clear eyes to see and the vision to recognize the need for the new Courthouse Annex expansion. Thank you for the work ethic to put that vision into place to serve the community now and for serving future generations.

Dr. Shane Speights, Craighead County Health Officer, Arkansas Department of Health, reported to the Quorum Court a brief overview of Craighead County's health. Statistically, Craighead County ranks much better than most other counties in the State, but the State of Arkansas does not rank well nationally. Dr. Speights spoke highly of the medical education factor here in our county, ASU's medical NYIT program, and locally the two outstanding hospitals, St. Bernards and NEA. He mentioned the good jobs being done by Anthony Coy as the county's Emergency Management director, and by Amy Howell and her team, director of Craighead County Health Unit. Dr. Speights voiced his concerns for flu this fall and an increase of numbers with a new strain of COVID, only to encourage us to take the vaccines when offered and available.

The first order of business was the approval of Quorum Court Minutes from July 24, 2023. A motion to accept the minutes as prepared was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Forrest. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Justice Longmire read minutes from the July 24, 2023, special Finance Committee meeting.

NO OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Day stated that in two weeks, the next meeting would be held at the County Extension Office and that Trauma Hogs would be provided for dinner.

Judge Day also announced that it was Justice Noel's birthday.

Justice Allison presented a check to Judge Day and Craighead County received from Attorney Chad Oldham, on behalf of Paul Ojo's estate, the State of Arkansas, Craighead County. Justice Allison suggests that maybe the County would consider using the money to do something to honor Mr. Ojo for his contribution and the Bay Community, as that was where Mr. Ojo resided.

Justice Longmire shared that many had attended the AAC Conference, but his takeaway was the session over the solar eclipse coming April 8, 2024. He stated that other counties are beginning to prepare and there would be opportunities for Jonesboro and the County to boost the local economy with the influx of people traveling through our area for the event. People are predicting millions to follow the eclipse. We are within the span of the eclipse and may want to research this more and make some plans.

With no other announcements or comments from the public, Justice Williams made a motion to adjourn to committees and Justice Rogers seconded. Judge Day called for a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Road Committee minutes

8/14/2023

Chairman Cline called the road committee together at 6:35 PM. Those present were Justice Couch, Justice Tennison, Justice Barnes, and Road Superintendent John James. John gave an update on road work being done. The committee reviewed a plat for Jeremy Gardner, CR 793. Justice Barnes made a motion to approve, 2nd by Justice Tennison. All were in favor.

The committee then reviewed a plat for Shawn Cook, CR 321. After reviewing, Justice Couch made a motion to put approval on hold since the north lot doesn't own any land to the road and they might not be able to get City Water & Light to supply water to the lot, 2nd by Justice Barnes. All were in favor.

With no other business, Justice Barnes made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Justice Tennison. The committee adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Public Service Committee
8/14/2023 Minutes

Those in attendance for the meeting:

Committee Members: JP Linda Allison, JP Brad Noel, Chairman JP Richard Rogers, and JP Kevin Williams. Also attending: Sheriff Marty Boyd, County Judge Marvin Day, and County Clerk Mary Dawn Marshall.

The Public Service committee meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Rogers.

The first item on the agenda, JP Rogers read a resolution for the reappointment of Clif Baxter to the Brookland Fire Protection District Board, a five-year term beginning 8/29/23 to 8/28/28. JP Allison made a motion to approve, and JP Noel seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0 to move to the full court for approval.

JP Rogers read a resolution for the reappointment of Eric Watson to the Brookland Fire Protection District Board, a five-year term beginning 8/29/23 to 8/28/28. JP Williams made a motion to approve, and JP Allison seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0 to move to the full court.

JP Rogers read an ordinance to amend Ordinance 2022-17 and Ordinance 2014-3 for policies and procedures for full time sheriff's deputies for military leave for up to 168 hours (or 21 days) plus necessary travel time for annual training requirements or other duties performed in an official duty status, but not to exceed 336 hours (or 28 days) in any one calendar year. Judge Day stated that our state legislators recently passed this modification to the military leave hours. He also has conferred with Arkansas Association of Counties on the increase in hours allowed for the unpaid leave.

JP Allison made a motion to approve the ordinance, and JP Williams seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-0 to move to the full court.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by JP Noel, and JP Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Minutes submitted by JP Allison.

Finance Committee Minutes
August 14, 2023

Chairman Longmire called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Present were committee members Justice Pasmore, Justice Weinstock, Justice Cook, and Justice Forrest. Also present were Treasurer McNatt and Collector Eddington.

Collector Eddington presented the tax collection report for July 2023. Current taxes collected are up 4.8% from the previous year. Delinquent personal taxes collected are up 19.4% from the previous year. Total tax collected in July was \$2.8 million.

Treasurer McNatt reported on July's financial reports. The General Fund ended the month with \$19.7 million. The Capital Fund had \$1.6 million at month end, and Road Fund had \$8.5 million. Sales tax collections were \$2.457 million dollars in July, up 5.78%.

Chairman Longmire presented an Appropriation Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add funds to the Assessor's budget for Professional Development Recognition. A motion to adopt was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Cook. Chairman Longmire took a vote and the motion passed. The Appropriation Ordinance will be heard by the full court at the next meeting.

Chairman Longmire read an Appropriation Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget to add funds to the Road budget for pavement preservation. A motion to approve was made by Justice Cook and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Chairman Longmire took a vote and the motion passed. The full court will hear the Appropriation Ordinance at the next meeting.

With no other business, Justice Cook made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Justice Forrest. All were in favor and the Finance Committee adjourned at 6:12 pm.